State Government. The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Act was enacted in May, 1995 during the President's Rule, i.e., at a time when the President was vested with the administrative powers of the State Government and subsequently when a popular Government assumed office in October, 1996, the said Act was reenacted by the State Government/Legislature within their own powers.

As per the provisions of the Act, the State Government shall provide funds under the Plan and Non-Plan Budget to the Council to be credited to the Council Fund as per budgetary requirements as approved by the State Government and the funds shall be released by the State Government as per normal budgeting procedure.

Non-payment of Property Tax in Delhi

799. SHRI RAJU PARMAR :
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that more than half a million properties in the National Capital Territory of Delhi are not paying property tax though residents of these properties enjoy full civic amenities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to collect property tax from those residents who are not paying property tax for the last many years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The properties are regularly assessed and in the event of non-payment of property tax the action as permissible under law is taken against the defaulting property owners.

National Committee on Disaster Management

800. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has asked the National Committee on Disaster Management (NCDM) to finalise its draft agenda;

(b) if so, whether the NCDM chaired by the Prime Minister has not been able to meet even once since its inception;

(c) whether the main purpose of setting up of NCDM was to thrash out issues like establishment of an exclusive Ministry for disaster management etc.;

(d) if so, whether the directive of the High Court has been implemented by the Government; and

(e) if so, what are the details of the agenda prepared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) to (e) The Delhi High Court have observed that they hope and trust that the draft agenda which has been prepared by the working group (of the National Committee on Disaster Management) shall be finalized within eight weeks. The Delhi High Court have further observed that after the agenda is finalized the National Committee on Disaster Management (NCDM) should bestow its consideration as expeditiously as possible. The National Committee on Disaster Management had been set up to :—

(i) Suggest short-term, medium and long-term steps for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction in the earthquake-affected areas of Gujarat.

(ii) Deliberate on the necessary institutional and legislative measures needed for an effective and long-term strategy to deal with national calamities in the future.

(iii) Look into the parameters that should define a National Calamity.

The National Committee on Disaster Management under the chairmanship of Prime Minister, had met on 18th February, 2001. In this meeting it was *inter alia* decided that in so far as the long-term strategy for dealing with major natural calamities in future is concerned, a working group would go into these issues. After holding several meetings, the Working Group has prepared a draft agenda note for the meeting of the National Committee on Disaster Management and this has been circulated to all members of the National Committee on Disaster Management for their suggestions and comments.